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F R A N K L I N .

[*Poor RICHARD improved, Being' MI Almanac, &*c. for the year of our Lord 1758* RICHARD SAUNDERS Philom Philadelphia.]

By the kind permission of that most courteous of friends ^ and most erudite O} living bibliographerS) HENRY STEVENS ^ Esq.) of Vermont ^ F.S.A., we are here permitted to give the following from his Historical Nuggets, p. 291, London, 1872, 8vo. We only prefix- one note. At the time this was written ^ tea was a costly drink.

Mr. STEVENS says, " This is the most celebrated of all the *Almanacs* of the celebrated *Poor RICHARD* ; and, as far as my experience goes, one of the rarest to be met with in a perfect state. It is full of precious gems ; but weighs, Troy weight, scarcely two sovereigns. In all the *Almanacs* previous to this, from 1733, FRANKLIN had dropped in, to fill up the chinks between the remarkable days in the Calendar, many proverbial sentences designed to inculcate industry, frugality, and other virtues.

" In his *Autobiography*, written many years after, FRANKLIN says,

These Proverbs, which contained the wisdom of many Ages and Nations, I assembled, and formed into a connected discourse, prefixed to the *Almanac* for 1758 ; as the harangue of a wise old man to the people attending an auction. The bringing all these scattered Counsels thus into a focus, enabled them to make a greater impression. The piece, being universally approved, was copied in all the newspapers of the American Continent; and reprinted in Britain on a large sheet of paper, to be stuck up in houses. Two translations were made of it in France; and great numbers bought by the Clergy and Gentry to distribute gratis among the poor parishioners and tenants. In Pennsylvania, as it discouraged useless expense in foreign superfluities; some thought it had a share of influence in producing that growing plenty of money, which was observable for several years after its publication.

" Since FRANKLIN wrote his *Autobiography* ^ this summary has been many times reprinted, both in England and France, and in many languages, even in modern Greek by DiDOT ; but such a chain of gems can never wear out or be lost,"

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OURTEOUS READER.

HAVE heard that nothing gives an author so great pleasure as to find his works respectfully quoted by other learned authors. This pleasure I have seldom enjoyed. For though I have been, if I may

say it without vanity, an

eminent author of

MNG, GAR. V.

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